

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING MINUTES

November 7, 2013
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Conference Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tomas Corsini, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Howard Katz, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Terri Wilson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jullie Gray, Hannah Kimball, Susan Posten, Lynne Robinson

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald & Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Cindy Goodwin and Rita Hartman, City of Mercer Island; Scott Lampe, Surrey Downs

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chair Grote who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Hannah Kimball, Susan Posten, and Lynne Robinson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 3, 2013

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL UPDATE PRESENTATION

Chair Grote introduced Luke Lamon from Sound Transit to the meeting and thanked him for coming. Mr. Lamon indicated he works in Sound Transit's Community Outreach group. He handed out a "Community Guide to Final Design". He said that East Link is an extension of the existing light rail services currently in Seattle. East Link is funded through a voter approved ballot and is a 14 mile alignment with 10 stations. The location of the stations has been determined but they are still finalizing the names of the stations. The stations are located at Rainier Ave., Mercer Island, South Bellevue, East Main (Surrey Downs), Bellevue Transit Center, Hospital, 120th, 130th, Overlake Village and Overlake Transit Center. They worked very closely with the City to set the alignment.

Mr. Katz indicated that he had advocated for the station being closer to the hospital rather than on 8th. He indicated that it will create a bottle neck in its current location with the City most likely needing to add an extra lane. Mr. Lamon stated that Sound Transit has an accessibility group advise station area designers on accessibility details that will work best for each station. Lights, along with bells will most likely be used at the hospital station to warn of an incoming train. Safety is their #1 concern. Sound Transit will work with the people in each station area to set up the best safety, warning bells and light system for that area. In regard to safety, Sound Transit can respond to safety issues and deal with them appropriately as they are brought forward. Guest Cindy Goodwin, Mercer Island, indicated that the Sound Transit security personnel have been very visible and very present and the older people in her area of Seattle feel very safe. Mr. Lamon said that they have closed circuit cameras and security personnel present on trains as well as in stations. Mr. Katz indicated that there was also an issue of the seat height in the trains. Mr. Lamon said that the seat height had to be according to the ADA requirements. Sound Transit has to comply with the ADA standards but are looking into alternatives while still remaining ADA compliant.

Ms. VonWald requested the upcoming public input opportunities for the Network. Mr. Lamon said that during the design there are milestones where they check in with the community. They have been having 30% design meetings and there is only one remaining that will be in regard to the Overlake portion of the line. In the second half of 2014 they will be having 60% design check-back meetings. They will then take the feedback received in the community to review and make any needed changes. We will also meet with any group if needed. You can call him and set up an appointment any time. Ms. Goodwin said that her neighborhood was very concerned about the noise when the line was put in their neighborhood and have been pleasantly pleased with the results.

COMP PLAN UPDATE LETTER [REVIEW & APPROVE]

Ms. VonWald indicated that the committees have been drafting a letter to the Planning Commission regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. It is very draft. She indicated that she and Ms. Thompson attended the Human Services Commission (HSC) meeting and on the draft where there is an asterisk it is where the BNOA and the HSC are agreeing.

Mr. Katz indicated that under affordable housing there is more than one level of affordability. We might want to know what rent to income ratio is for this. Ms. VonWald said that the BNOA is requesting that they request mandatory incentive requirements for affordable housing instead of voluntary incentives. She suggested adding verbiage to include the full range of affordability. Ms. VonWald stated that she will take today's comments and send them back out to everyone for a final vote at the December meeting.

Ms. Thompson asked on the draft under Housing #2 . . . what does this mean. Ms. VonWald said it is referring to maintaining the neighborhood character. So, the 2nd to last bullet will be revised to read "Balancing neighborhood reinvestment while maintaining the neighborhood's character".

Ms. Thompson then indicated on p. 2 under #4 that we should not accept detached accessory dwellings unless there are major restrictions. In single-family neighborhoods it is not fair for others to build accessory dwellings. Ms. Seltzer said that there are currently rules in place. It was decided that the “detached” could be eliminated and addressed in another bullet.

Ms. Thompson then brought up p.3, item 2 and would like to add to the last sentence to have it read “Goals for social justice, equity, accessibility accommodations, anti-racism and cultural competence ...”. The accessibility will be addressed in the Capital Facilities element.

Mr. Megargel said under Transportation, #1 that the 5th bullet should read “additional resting points (benches)”. Everyone agreed.

Ms. VonWald said on p. 4 she will check with Ms. Robinson to see what the Park Board is supporting for the Parks element and may add language in that section.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Outreach Committee** – (reported by Ms. VonWald)

Ms. VonWald said that the next scheduled meeting is on Veteran’s Day so the committee will not meet again until December.

- b) **Transportation/Housing** (reported by Ms. Wilson)

The group did not meet but has been busy working on the letter in regard to the update of the Comprehensive Plan that BNOA is going to be sending to the Planning Commission.

- c) **Advocacy** – (reported by Ms. Thompson)

A reminder that the Legislative Forum is on Wednesday, December 11th @ Kirkland City Hall, 4:00-6:00pm. Please attend. Phone calls to legislators are underway for RSVP’s. She passed out a copy of the draft Legislative Priorities. Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve the Legislative Priorities. They were approved unanimously.

Ms. Thompson said some members met with Senator Murray’s office regarding medical observation and their office has sent information to Washington DC. Mr. Katz is working to set up a meeting time with Representative Reichert. Representative McDermott is on the House Ways and Means Committee but Ms. Thompson thought it would be better to have the people from Aging & Disabilities Services call to make the appointment to meet with his office. They are trying to get an appointment with Representative Cantwell but it is not easy.

Ms. Thompson attended the Senior Lobby Conference and said that they had excellent information. She also attended the Elder Abuse Conference and said the presentation on self-neglect was really quite interesting. It was discussed that Adult Protective Services and

Residential Care Services needs to add additional people to their staff and they will be asking legislators for this.

d) Nominating Committee (reported by Ms. Seltzer)

Ms. Seltzer made a motion to approve the reappointment of Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Howard Katz, Beverly Heyden, Terri Wilson and Janet Zielasko to an additional 2 year term expiring December, 2015. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Ms. Seltzer moved to approve the appointment of new members Ethan Crawford to serve a 2 year term expiring December, 2015, Dan Aznoff to serve a 1 year term expiring December 2014 (this is Mr. Corsini's position as he is resigning at the end of 2013), and the appointment of Chris Strand and Mary Watkins as liaison members for a 2 year term expiring December, 2015. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Six applications were received. Four applicants were interviewed, two withdrew and four are recommended for membership as they demonstrated the best matches in knowledge and experience.

The new members bios: Ethan Crawford – retired Bellevue resident and community volunteer; Dan Aznoff – resident, journalist and community volunteer; Chris Strand – social worker at Careage Health in Bellevue; Mary Watkins – Community Relations Director at Emeritus of Bellevue.

e) ByLaws Committee (reported by Ms. Thompson)

The revised Bylaws were sent out to all members and copies were available at the meeting for review also. Ms. Thompson said there were 3 additional small changes she wanted to make: 1) p. 2, item B, delete “Bellevue” in front of work (too many Bellevue's); 2) p. 3, item 2, under E there is the work resignation and we don't need the word “or”; and 3) p. 4, under B, #1, under Chair the “they” should be replaced with “he/she”.

Ms. Thompson noted the recommendations under Attendance. The committee doesn't want to discourage people but need people to attend the meetings. On p. 2, #7 we added the highlighted information. On p. 3, #2 we deleted that item. On p. 3, item #, #2 we should add “if approved, the member can be offered a liaison position by a vote of the entire network. On p. 4, item B, #1 we added additional information to the Chair information and the group agreed with the addition.

Ms. VonWald stated that she would like to move the public comment period of the meeting to the beginning of the meeting. The group agreed unanimously. She said she would send the revised Bylaws out to the members to be voted on at the December meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

- a) **Parks & Community Services Board** – no report
- b) **Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative** –

Ms. O'Reilly said that the group is working on its work plan for 2014.

- c) **Eastside Human Services Forum** (reported by Ms. O'Reilly)

Ms. O'Reilly encouraged everyone to attend the Eastside Human Services Forum's Annual Event on December 5th at North Bellevue Community Center. The agenda will be about being proactive in Comprehensive Planning in Cities.

- d) **Timebanks of Puget Sound** (reported by Ms. Grote)

There are currently 17 new members and they are working hard at building the membership. They made \$11,000 at the auction.

- e) **Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council** (reported by Ms. Seltzer)

The group didn't meet last month but will meet tomorrow and their focus is on planning for 2014.

STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is December 5th and it will be a short business meeting followed by the year end celebration with the white elephant gift exchange and potluck. During the business portion we will be voting on Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. VonWald will be sending out an email requesting nominations. There will then be a vote at the meeting. We will then be voting on the Bylaws and the Comprehensive Plan Update letter. The white elephant gift exchange has a \$5 limit and you can bring whatever you would like for the potluck. Mr. Corsini agreed to bring coffee.

In January the annual retreat is generally held on the 9th. However, our facilitator is not available until the 16th. Ms. VonWald asked for a consensus on the new date. There was consensus so the retreat date will be January 16th from 9:00-12:00 in Conference Room 1E-120.

Ms. VonWald stated that she is in the transition period for her new position. Her current position recruitment is underway and it is hoped to have someone in her position by the first of the year. She will be at the retreat in January.

Ms. Wilson thought it might be nice to invite past BNOA members to the 2nd half of the meeting on December 5th to celebrate Ms. VonWald's tenure with the group.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cindy Goodwin, Director of Youth & Family Services in Mercer Island, said that the members of their Senior Commission have decided to switch from a Commission model to an Advisory function and will be folded into the existing Youth & Family Services Board. Members want to have a voice in regional issues though and would like to partner with larger groups on this. Mr. Katz indicated that the BNOA partners regularly with Kirkland and they work very well with them. Ms. VonWald said that she would loop Mercer Island in with the Advocacy Committee meetings. The group also told Ms. Goodwin that they should get plugged into the Aging & Disabilities Advisory Council. They advise county-wide.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.